

Thank you, Bill Hardisty, for your service to your students and your service to your country.

STATEMENT BY CONGRESSMAN  
SCOTT GARRETT IN HONOR OF  
NATIONAL NURSES WEEK

**HON. SCOTT GARRETT**

OF NEW JERSEY  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I rise to praise some of the most under-valued public servants in our society: American nurses. They are ever-present at every stage of our lives—at our birth, through childhood illnesses and adult traumas, and in our final days. Yet, while people remember the doctor who delivered their children or cared for their aging parents, they rarely remember the friendly, caring individuals who stayed by their side while busy doctors made rounds.

According to the U.S. Department of Labor, registered nurses constitute the largest segment of the health care workforce, with more than 2.4 million jobs in 2006. And, they are projected to create the second largest number of new jobs amongst all occupations. Yet, the demand for nurses is far outstripping the supply and many parts of the Nation—from the most urban inner city to the most remote rural community—are experiencing extraordinary nursing shortages.

Nursing is a noble profession, but one which is too often upstaged by other health care professionals and too often given little credit for the enormous role played in sustaining the high quality of American health care. As we celebrate National Nurses Week this week, let us all take a moment to thank the nurses in our hospitals and doctors' offices, nursing homes and hospices, and all throughout our communities for all their tremendous service.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION  
OF H.R. 1873, SMALL BUSINESS  
FAIRNESS IN CONTRACTING ACT

SPEECH OF

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, May 9, 2007*

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 1873) to reauthorize the programs and activities of the Small Business Administration relating to procurement, and for other purposes:

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, today I rise in support for H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act and join my colleagues in efforts to ensure that small businesses are given a fair opportunity to compete for Federal contracts. I recognize that government agencies have recently been bundling hundreds of small contracts into single mega-contracts, which are awarded to only the largest contractors.

H.R. 1873, the Small Business Fairness in Contracting Act, will un-bundle many of these contracts and level the playing field for small businesses. The bill addresses the major

problems that have resulted in limited opportunities for small businesses in the Federal marketplace. The bill ensures that more contracting opportunities are available to small firms, fights fraud in the contracting process and raises the Federal small business government-wide contracting goal. H.R. 1873 implements changes that will remove a number of the barriers facing entrepreneurs in accessing Federal contracts, creating a more level playing field for this Nation's 26 million small businesses.

I want to thank Chairwoman NYDIA VELÁZQUEZ for bringing this legislation to the committee and to the floor. The Detroit region's 420,000 small businesses account for 99.2 percent of all firms; this includes almost 300,000 sole proprietors. Small businesses with employees other than themselves employ 915,000 people or 47 percent of the region's employees. While big businesses have consolidated a large portion of their services and number of employees they hire, small business has helped mitigate the pain with modest but steady employment gains. The continued growth in the small business sector, especially in the formation of fair contracting for the diverse population not only in Detroit, but throughout Michigan, will create much-needed jobs and assist in the diversification of our region's economy.

By law, Federal organizations are required to support small businesses. However, contract bundling has resulted in less small business participation in Federal contracts. It is essential to help remove the barriers blocking small businesses from entering the nearly \$400 billion per year Federal marketplace.

I believe in the value of small businesses as the number one job creators in this country and strongly support this legislation.

INTRODUCTION OF THE "NO OIL  
PRODUCING AND EXPORTING  
CARTELS ACT OF 2007"

**HON. JOHN CONYERS, JR.**

OF MICHIGAN  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Mr. CONYERS. Madam Speaker, today I am introducing the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2001" ("NOPEC"), legislation that would effectively force OPEC to begin pricing in a competitive, free market manner or face the possibility of being prosecuted for civil or criminal antitrust violations. This legislation will establish that OPEC's activities are not protected by sovereign immunity and that the Federal courts should not decline to hear such a case based on the "act of state" doctrine. I am joined by Representatives CHABOT and LOFGREN, as original co-sponsors of this bill.

For the past year, American consumers have paid exorbitant prices at the pump, as gas prices have hit their highest levels since the first gulf war. For the past several months, oil prices have remained stubbornly high, sitting above \$65 at the end of last week. Since January of this year, oil prices have climbed more than 20 percent, driving gasoline prices in the United States to record levels while producing budget surpluses in nations like Saudi Arabia. And as of May 8, 2007, the average U.S. price of a gallon of gasoline was \$3.036,

just 2 cents short of the record high reached in September 2005 after Hurricane Katrina hit the gulf coast.

The group of 12 nations comprising OPEC represent the classic definition of a cartel, and they hold all the cards when it comes to oil and gas prices. OPEC accounts for two-thirds of the world's oil reserves, and over 40 percent of the world's oil production. Most significantly, OPEC's oil exports represent about 70 percent of the oil traded internationally. This affords them considerable control over the global market. Its net oil export revenues should reach nearly \$395 billion this year, and its influence on the oil market is dominant, especially when it decides to reduce or increase its levels of production.

The OPEC nations have for years conspired to drive up prices of imported crude oil, gouging American consumers. Their price-fixing and supply-limiting conspiracy is a clear violation of U.S. antitrust laws, yet we have no recourse for action against these nations. The international oil cartel continues to avoid accountability, shielding itself behind the veil of sovereign immunity by claiming that its actions are "governmental activity"—which is protected under the Foreign Sovereign Immunities Act ("FSIA"), 28 U.S.C. § 1602 et seq.—rather than "commercial activity."

This legislation, the "No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act" ("NOPEC"), is simple and effective.

It exempts OPEC and other nations from the provisions of FSIA to the extent those governments are engaged in price-fixing and other anticompetitive activities with regard to pricing, production and distribution of petroleum products.

It makes clear that the so-called "Act of State" doctrine does not prevent courts from ruling on antitrust charges brought against foreign governments and that foreign governments are "persons" subject to suit under the antitrust laws.

It authorizes lawsuits in U.S. Federal court against oil cartel members by the Justice Department and the Federal Trade Commission.

We do not have to stand by and watch OPEC dictate the price of our gas without any recourse; we can do something to combat this conspiracy among oil-rich nations. I am hopeful that Congress can move quickly to enact this worthwhile and timely legislation.

BREAST CANCER AND ENVIRONMENTAL  
RESEARCH ACT OF 2007

**HON. SHEILA JACKSON-LEE**

OF TEXAS  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, May 10, 2007*

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my strong support for H.R. 1157, and, in doing so, to honor my mother and all the women in my life. With Mother's Day approaching on Sunday, May 13, I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this legislation, the Breast Cancer Environmental Research Act as a tribute to each of our mothers. This bill would invest in the research still necessary to determine the potential links between breast cancer and the environment, so that we can cure it and eventually eradicate this terrible disease.

Currently, despite the efforts of numerous researchers, less than 30 percent of breast